

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE GRAPHICS PROCESSING UNITS
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

No. C 06-07417 WHA

MDL No. 1826

This Order Relates To:
ALL ACTIONS

PRETRIAL ORDER No. 1

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation has transferred certain antitrust actions relating to the sale of graphics processing units to this Court for consolidated pretrial proceedings. As the number and complexity of these actions warrant holding a single, coordinated initial case management conference for all action in *In Re Graphics Processing Units Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1826, the Court orders as follows:

1. Applicability of Order. Prior to the initial pretrial conference and entry of a comprehensive order governing all further proceedings in this action, the provisions of this order shall govern the practice and procedure in those actions that were transferred to this Court by the Panel. This order also applies to all related cases filed in all divisions of the Northern District of California and all “tag-along actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court.

2. Consolidation. The civil actions transferred to this Court or related to the actions already pending before this Court are consolidated for pretrial purposes. Any “tag-

along actions” later filed in, removed to, or transferred to this Court, or directly filed in the Northern District of California, will automatically be consolidated with this action without the necessity of future motions or orders. This consolidation does not constitute a determination that the actions should be consolidated for trial, nor does it have the effect of making any entity a party to any action in which he, she or it has not been named, served or added in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3. Date of Initial Conference and Agenda for Conference. Matters relating to pretrial and discovery proceedings in these cases will be addressed at an initial pretrial conference to be held on **THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007, AT 11:00 A.M.** before Judge William Alsup in Courtroom 9, 19th Floor, United States Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. Counsel are expected to familiarize themselves with the *Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth* (“MCL 4th”) and be prepared at the conference to suggest procedures that will facilitate the expeditious, economical, and just resolution of this litigation. The items listed in MCL 4th Sections 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4 shall, to the extent applicable, constitute a tentative agenda for the conference. Special emphasis should be placed on measures to be taken to expedite the transfer of any matters filed outside of this District to this Court. Counsel shall confer and seek consensus to the extent possible with respect to the items on the agenda, including a proposed discovery plan, amendment of pleadings, and consideration of any class action allegations and motions. If the parties have any suggestions as to any case management orders or additional agenda items, these suggestions should be filed with the Court no later than **MAY 17, 2007**. In this regard, be aware that the Court tentatively believes that all discovery and motion practice can and should be finished in twelve to fourteen months.

4. Position Statement. Plaintiffs and defendants should submit to the Court no later than **MAY 17, 2007**, a brief written statement indicating their preliminary understanding of the facts involved in this litigation and the critical factual and legal issues. These statements will not be binding, will not waive claims or defenses, and may not be offered into evidence against a party in later proceedings. Parties’ statements shall identify all cases that have been transferred to or related before this Court, and shall identify all pending motions in those cases.

1 The statement shall also list all related cases pending (that have not already been transferred to
2 this Court), together with their current status, including any discovery taken to date, to the
3 extent known. Parties shall be limited to one such submission for all plaintiffs and one such
4 submission for all defendants.

5 **5. Initial Conference Appearances.** Each party represented by counsel shall
6 appear at the initial pretrial conference through the party's attorney who will have primary
7 responsibility for the party's interest in this litigation. Parties not represented by counsel may
8 appear in person or through an authorized responsible agent.

9 **6. Service.** Prior to the initial pretrial conference, service of all papers shall be
10 made on each of the attorneys on the Panel Attorney Service List attached to this order. Any
11 attorney who wishes to have his or her name added to or deleted from such Panel Attorney
12 Service List may do so on request to the Clerk and notice to all other persons on such service
13 list. Parties shall present to the Court at the initial conference a service list of attorneys and
14 their office addresses and email addresses. After the initial conference, service shall be by e-
15 filing, as is explained in paragraph 9.

16 **7. Response Extension and Stay.** Defendants are granted an extension of time for
17 responding by motion or answer to the complaint(s) until a date to be set by this Court. Pending
18 the initial conference and further orders of this Court, all outstanding discovery proceedings are
19 stayed, and no further discovery shall be initiated. Moreover, all pending motions must be
20 renoticed on a motion day or days after the initial case management conference.

21 **8. Master Docket File.** The Clerk of the Court will maintain a master docket case
22 file under the style "In Re Graphics Processing Units Antitrust Litigation" and the identification
23 "MDL No. 1826." When a pleading is intended to apply to all actions, this shall be indicated by
24 the words: "This Document Relates to All Actions." When a pleading is intended to apply to
25 fewer than all cases, this Court's docket number for each individual case to which the document
26 number relates shall appear immediately after the words "This Document Relates to."

27 **9. Filing.** This case is subject to Electronic Case Filing ("ECF"), pursuant to
28 General Order 45, Section VI of which requires that all documents in such a case be filed

electronically. General Order 45 provides at Section IV (A) that “Each attorney of record is obligated to become an ECF User and be assigned a user ID and password for access to the system upon designation of the action as being subject to ECF.” If he or she has not already done so, counsel shall register forthwith as an ECF User and be issued an ECF User ID and password. Forms and instructions can be found on the Court’s web site at ecf.cand.uscourts.gov.

All documents shall be e-filed in the master file, 07-1826. Documents that pertain to one or only some of the pending actions shall *also* be e-filed in the individual case or cases to which the documents pertain.

10. Docketing New Cases. When an action that properly belongs as part of *In Re Graphics Processing Units Antitrust Litigation* is filed after the date of this order in the Northern District of California or transferred here from another court, the Clerk of the Court shall:

- a. File a copy of this order in the separate file for such action;
- b. Make an appropriate entry on the master docket sheet;
- c. Mail to the attorneys for the plaintiff in the newly-filed or transferred case a copy of this order;
- d. Upon the first appearance of any new defendants, mail to the attorneys for the defendant in such newly-filed or transferred cases a copy of this order;

11. Appearances. Counsel who appeared in a transferor court prior to transfer need not enter an additional appearance before this Court. Moreover, attorneys admitted to practice and in good standing in any United States District Court are automatically admitted *pro hac vice* in this litigation, and the requirements of the Northern District of California Local Rule 11-3 are waived. Association of local counsel is not required.

12. Preservation of Evidence. All parties and their counsel are reminded of their duty to preserve evidence that may be relevant to this action. The duty extends to documents, data, and tangible things in the possession, custody and control of the parties to this action, and any employees, agents, contractors, carriers, bailees, or other nonparties who possess materials

1 reasonably anticipated to be subject to discovery in this action. “Documents, data, and tangible
2 things” shall be interpreted broadly to include writings, records, files, correspondence, reports,
3 memoranda, calendars, diaries, minutes, electronic messages, voice mail, email, telephone
4 message records or logs, computer and network activity logs, hard drives, backup data,
5 removable computer storage media such as tapes, discs and cards, printouts, document image
6 files, Web pages, databases, spreadsheets, software, books, ledgers, journals, orders, invoices,
7 bills, vouchers, checks, statements, worksheets, summaries, compilations, computations, charts,
8 diagrams, graphic presentations, drawings, films, charts, diagrams, graphic presentations, digital
9 or chemical process photographs, video, phonographic, tape or digital recordings or transcripts
10 thereof, drafts, jottings and notes, studies or drafts of studies or other similar such material.
11 Information that serves to identify, locate, or link such material, such as file inventories, file
12 folders, indices, and metadata, is also included in this definition. Until the parties reach an
13 agreement on a preservation plan or the Court orders otherwise, each party shall take reasonable
14 steps to preserve all documents, data and tangible things containing information potentially
15 relevant to the subject matter of this litigation. *Counsel is under an obligation to the Court to*
16 *exercise all reasonable efforts to identify and notify parties and non-parties, including*
17 *employees of corporate or institutional parties.*


18 **13. Liaison Counsel.** Prior to the initial conference, counsel for the plaintiffs and
19 counsel for the defendants shall, to the extent they have not already done so, confer and seek
20 consensus on the selection of a candidate for the position of liaison counsel for each group who
21 will be charged with essentially administrative matters. For example, liaison counsel shall be
22 authorized to receive orders and notices from the Court on behalf of all parties within their
23 liaison group and shall be responsible for the preparation and transmittal of copies of such
24 orders and notices to the parties in their liaison group and perform other tasks determined by the
25 Court. Liaison counsel shall be required to maintain complete files with copies of all
26 documents served upon them and shall make such files available to parties within their liaison
27 group upon request. Liaison counsel are also authorized to receive orders and notices from the
28 Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation pursuant to Rule 5.2(e) of the Panel’s *Rules of*

1 *Procedure* or from the transferee court on behalf of all parties within their liaison group and
2 shall be responsible for the preparation and transmittal of copies of such orders and notices to
3 the parties in their liaison group. The expenses incurred in performing the services of liaison
4 counsel shall be shared equally by all members of the liaison group in a manner agreeable to the
5 parties or set by the Court failing such agreement. Appointment of liaison counsel shall be
6 subject to the approval of the Court. At the first conference liaison counsel and/or the parties
7 should be prepared to discuss any additional needs for an organizational structure or any
8 additional matters consistent with the efficient handling of this matter.

9 **14. Communication with the Court.** Unless otherwise ordered by this Court, all
10 substantive communications with the Court shall be in writing and e-filed. The Court
11 recognizes that cooperation by and among plaintiffs' counsel and by and among defendants'
12 counsel is essential for the orderly and expeditious resolution of this litigation. The
13 communication of information among and between plaintiffs' counsel and among and between
14 defendants' counsel shall not be deemed a waiver of the attorney-client privilege or the
15 protection afforded attorney work product, and cooperative efforts contemplated above shall in
16 no way be used against any plaintiff by any defendant or against any defendant by any plaintiff.
17 Nothing contained in this provision shall be construct to limit the rights of any party or counsel
18 to assert the attorney-client privilege or attorney work-product doctrine.

19
20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21
22 Dated: April 30, 2007.

23 
24 _____
25 WILLIAM ALSUP
26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
27
28